



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CONTACT: Stephen Hourahan
202-224-6167

CHAFEE FIGHTING FOR CLEAN AIR

Calls for Debate on Clean Air Planning Act

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today reiterated his strong opposition to a clean air bill that does not recognize the need to regulate carbon dioxide. Citing sections of “Our Changing Planet” a supplement to the President’s budget for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 he again called for the recognition of carbon dioxide as the primary pollutant linked to global warming.

Included in the report by the Climate Change Science Program and the Subcommittee on Global Change Research is a recognition that “North American temperature changes from 1950 to 1999 were unlikely to be due only to natural climate variations.” The report went on to state that “carbon dioxide is the largest single forcing agent of climate change, and methane is also a significant contributor. Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane have been increasing for about two centuries as a result of human activities and are now higher than they have been for over 400,000 years,” the report continued.

The Clear Skies Act includes no mandatory reduction of carbon dioxide. The Clean Air Planning Act (Carper/Chafee) calls for a 3% - 5% reduction in carbon dioxide levels. In published reports, the Environmental Protection Agency has recognized that Carper/Chafee would be more effective in reducing air pollution than a plan that does not address carbon dioxide.

“With so many people in agreement that we need to make significant reductions in power plant emissions, the nation cannot afford to miss the opportunity for a legitimate debate on these important issues. I believe Carper/Chafee is a compromise that must be embraced, and deserves to be debated and ultimately voted into law,” Chafee said. “I am committed to addressing this serious problem with sound environmental regulation of the power industry while striking a balance among public health, the economy and energy efficiency,” Chafee continued.